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MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Board

Date: February 6, 2008

From: Randy Blankenhorn, Executive Director 

Re: Partnership with Chicago Community Trust on the Regional Comprehensive Plan

The Chicago Community Trust (CCT) has expressed interest in partnering with CMAP in the development of the Regional Comprehensive Plan. Staff from both organizations have been working for several months to determine the details of this potential relationship, and are convinced that a partnership would have strong mutual benefits. This partnership was approved by the CCT Board on January 29.

CCT is a philanthropic organization that provides resources for programs in the general areas of arts and culture, basic human needs, community development, education, and health. The proposed partnership will improve CMAP's approach to the technical and public engagement work involved in the Regional Comprehensive Plan. CCT's contributions will include in-kind work by their staff and direct funding contributions to CMAP. The funding contributions could be up to \$1.3 million over three years. In-kind contributions will be substantial but a value has not been estimated. In particular, CCT will:

- contribute to the development of indicators, which will be used in the Regional Comprehensive Plan to measure progress toward the region's vision;
- strengthen the approach of the plan to education, health, human services, and other topics outside of CMAP's traditional expertise; and
- use their networks of community-based organizations and media to improve public engagement for the plan and reach beyond CMAP's current stakeholders.

As our partnership develops, CCT may become involved in additional activities beyond those listed above. In addition, staff believes that there is great potential for CCT to assist in the implementation of the plan after its adoption in fall 2010. CCT leadership will attend the

CMAP Board meeting on February 13 to provide further description of their organization and their interest in partnering with CMAP.

ACTION REQUESTED: Discussion and comments.